

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 OES-07 /072 W
-----100614Z 013644 /14

R 091950Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5219
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 9582

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, YO, EEC
SUBJECT: TITO'S COMMENTS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FUTURE
DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. DURING A CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSADOR ON JUNE 8,
FOREIGN MINISTER FORLANI DESCRIBED HIS CONVERSATION WITH
MARSHALL TITO DURING VISIT EARLIER IN WEEK TO YUGOSLAVIA.
FORLANI REMARKED THAT TITO SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD HEALTH,
WAS CLEARLY IN GOOD SPIRITS AND, WITH SOME ASSISTANCE
FROM THE "MAKE-UP MAN" (E.G., DYED HAIR), SOUGHT TO PROJECT
IMAGE OF VITALITY AND ENTHUSIAASM.

2. RE U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, FORLANI SAID THAT TITO HAD
LISTENED WITH ATTENTION AND INTEREST TO FORLANI'S ACCOUNT
OF LONDON SUMMIT, WITHOUT, HOWEVER, MAKING ANY COMMENTS OF
HIS OWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, TITO SPOKE WARMLY OF VICE
PRESIDENT MONDALE, WHOM HE HAD FOUND NOT ONLY FIENDLY BUT
ALSO VERY OPEN.

3. FORLANI REPORTED TITO'S REMARKS ON INTERNATIONAL
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DEVELOPMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A. TITO EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE PESSIMIISM ABOUT
PROSPECTS FOR PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST. HE CONSIDERED RECENT
ELECTION IN ISRAEL TO HAVE BEEN A TRAGEDY BECAUSE NEW
LEADERSHIP IS INTRANSIGENT. HE ALSO BELIEVES PROSPECTS
FOR RECONVENING GENEVA CONFERENCE ARE SLIGHT. FORLANI

OFFERED THEORY THAT ONLY VERY CONSERVATIVE LEADERSHIP, SUCH AS THAT WHICH IS NOW TAKING OVER IN ISRAEL, WILL BE ABLE TO OBTAIN NECESSARY DOMESTIC CONSENSUS IN ISRAEL FOR WORKABLE PEACE SETTLEMENT. HOWEVER, TITO DECLINED TO ACCEPT THIS AS A POSSIBILITY.

B. TITO SEEMED OPTIMISTIC ON PROSPECTS FOR NEW SALT AGREEMENT AS WELL AS ON FORTHCOMING CSCE.

C. TITO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT BOTH U.S. AND SOVIET UNION WOULD CEASE "DIVING" INTO AFRICA, WITH CONSEQUENT DESTABILIZING INFLUENCE.

D. WITH REFERENCE TO HIS OWN ACTIVITIES, TITO MENTIONED TO FORLANI THAT HE WOULD VISIT MOSCOW IN AUGUST, AFTER WHICH HE WOULD TRAVEL TO CHINA AND NORTH KOREA.

4. TITO EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN FURTHER DEVELOPING TIES BETWEEN YUGOSLAVIA AND EC. IN PARTICULAR, HE SOLICITED ITALY'S SUPPORT TOWARD THIS GOAL IN NEGOTIATION OF AGREEMENT TO REPLACE THE EC/YUGOSLAVIA ACCORD WHICH EXPIRES NEXT YEAR. ONLY ILLUSTRATION FORLANI PROVIDED WAS YUGOSLAV DESIRE FOR LARGER IMPORT QUOTAS FOR GOOD FROM YUGOSLAVIA.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT THAT TITO AND FORLANI SEEMED TO HAVE DISCUSSED ONLY "BIG ISSUES," FORLANI DEMURRED, NOTING THAT HE HAD RAISED THE QUESTION OF ITALIANS IMPRISONED IN YUGOSLAVIA. HE ALSO REPORTED STRONG YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN EXPANDED BILATERAL CONFIDENTIAL

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COOPERATION, E.G., IN FIGHTING POLLUTION IN THE ADRIATIC, IN DEVELOPMENT OF LIGNITE DEPOSITS IN YUGOSLAVIA AND IN JOINT VENTURES IN THIRD COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHERE YUGOSLAVIA HAS A PRIVILEGED POLITICAL POSITION.

6. FORLANI NOTED THAT TITO HAD SPOKEN, ALBEIT IN JEST, ABOUT THE POST-TITO ERA. BOTH TITO AND FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC IN A SEPARATE PRIVATE CONVERSATION EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO UPHEAVAL OR BASIC POLICY CHANGES IN YUGOSLAVIA FOLLOWING TITO'S DEPARTURE FROM THE SCENE. THEY INSISTED THAT THE COMMUNIST LEAGUE WOULD SETTLE THE QUESTION OF SUCCESSION AND THAT WIDE CONSENSUS EXISTS ON NATIONAL POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES.

GARDNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ROME09582
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770207-0321
Format: TEL
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770673/aaaacmb1.tel
Line Count: 111
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4c231782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2213496
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TITOVS COMMENTS ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND FUTURE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, IT, YO, EEC, (TITO, JOSIP BROZ), (FORLANI, ARNALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4c231782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009